



NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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NGA Launches Maritime Day Celebration

BETHESDA, Md.—The National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) today celebrated one of the most revolutionary advancements in navigation at sea. Recognizing the completion of the Digital Nautical Chart (DNC®), and the certification of ECDIS-N (Electronic Charting Display and Information System - Navy), more than 250 people attended “Maritime Day” at NGA. Representatives from the Department of Defense, federal civil agencies, the commonwealth partners and retirees who contributed to significant achievements were present to help showcase NGA’s commitment in transforming navigation.

The Defense Mapping Agency, one of the predecessors of NGA, created DNC® over the last 15 years by for use by the Navy. DNC® provides electronic combat support, situational awareness and marine navigation that is far superior to traditional paper charts. More than 5,000 worldwide paper charts are now contained within 29 CD-ROMs, which can be updated quickly via electronic patches from the NGA Web site. It is the only worldwide digital nautical chart in existence today.

Mark Schultz, Director of NGA’s Office of Corporate Relations, was one of the original members of a small U.S. lead team that facilitated international acceptance of this technology and the realization of this success. Stated Schultz, “This represents the single greatest advancement since the introduction of radar and is catalyzing similar success in aeronautical and land navigation. It came about only because of the contribution of many in NGA, National Oceanic Service, Navy, Industry and the commonwealth.”

Guided missile cruiser USS Cape St. George (CG 71) is the first surface warship certified to use ECDIS-N, a charting display system that interfaces with Navy shipboard navigation systems and sensors. It allows navigators to use digital chart data with interactive computers and real-time positioning systems to safely navigate the ship and to control the ship’s steering based on inputs from the navigation sensors and an approved voyage plan.

Rear Adm. Steven J. Tomaszewski, Oceanographer/Navigator of the Navy, presented the keynote address, highlighting the importance of DNC® and its partnerships with NGA. “The partnership between Navy, NGA and industry has resulted in a charting system that has revolutionized how the Navy operates at sea. ECDIS-N and DNCs provide improved safety of navigation, enhanced situational awareness, greater interoperability with joint and coalition forces, and significant cost savings. With the certification of ECDIS-N we are truly navigating our way into the future.”

Navy Capt. Lisa Batchelor Frailey, Chief, Maritime Division, said, “Maritime’s Transformation is the culmination of the efforts of hundreds of NGA, Navy and industry members over time—visionary leaders and talented, dedicated people who have turned the vision into today’s reality. Our

transformation will continue, as we further exploit developing technologies to ensure our customers have the most current and accurate geospatial and maritime safety information possible."

NGA is a Department of Defense combat support agency and a member of the national intelligence community. The Agency's mission is to provide timely, relevant and accurate geospatial intelligence—earth-referenced information about natural and man-made objects or events with national security implications. Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., NGA has major facilities in the Washington, D.C., Northern Virginia and St. Louis, Mo., areas with NGA support teams worldwide.